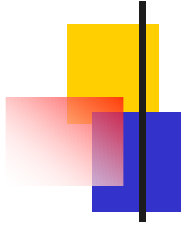


# The Mega Site Issue

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Bruce Means  
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

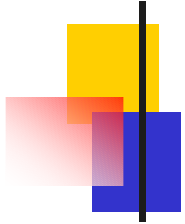
June 19, 2001  
NACEPT



# Mega Site Definition

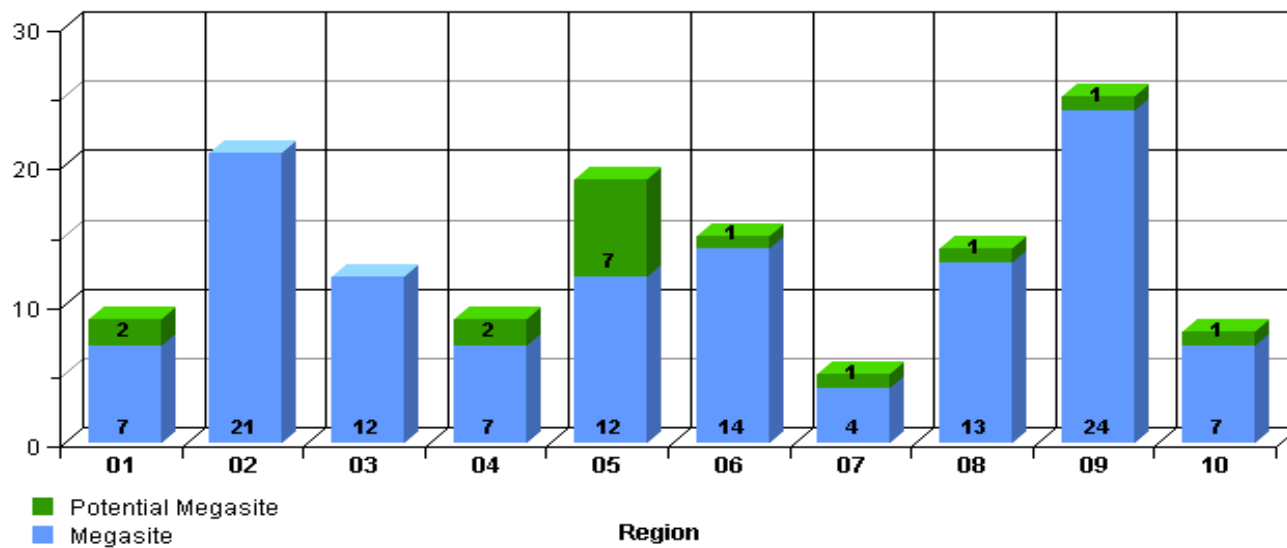
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- NPL Sites with cleanup costs of \$50 M or more;
- Total removal and remedial action;
- Funded by EPA or PRP
- 112 sites in 1999

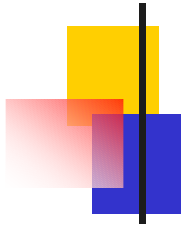


# Mega Sites in 2002

121 Megsites and 16 Potential Megsites

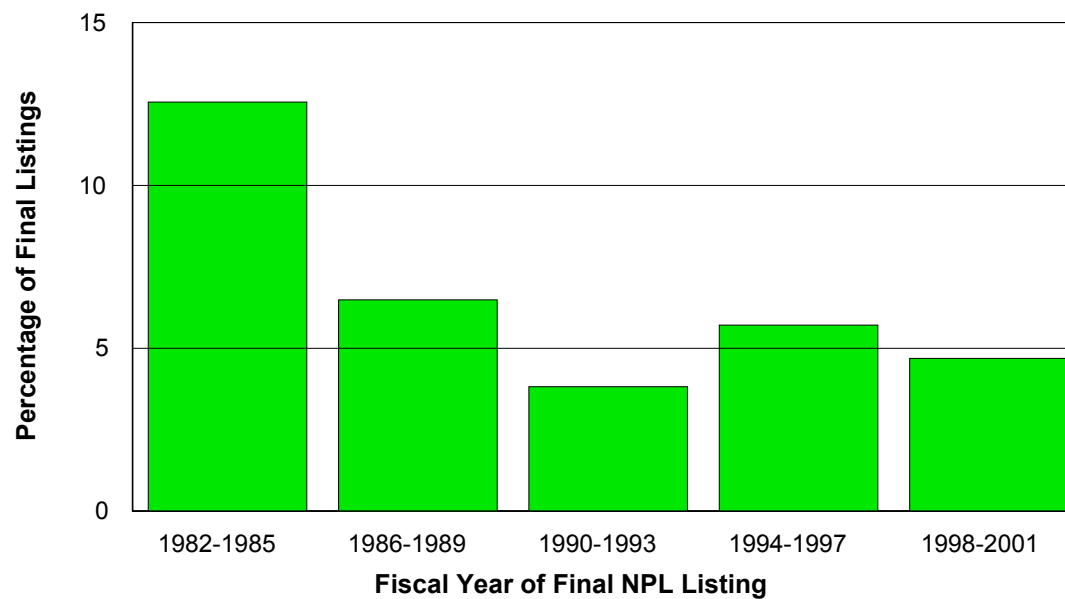


Data as of June 7, 2002



# Trends in NPL Listing

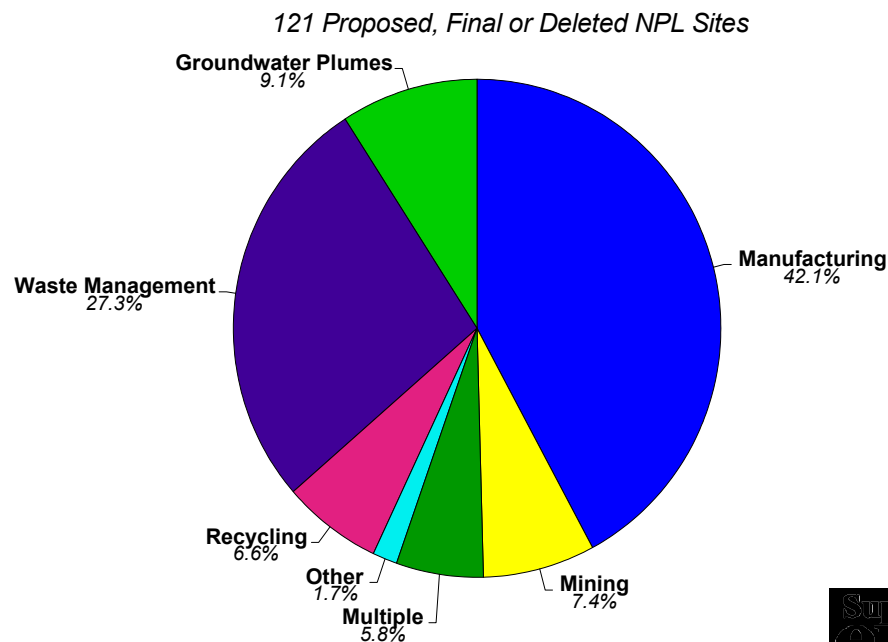
*Megasites as a Percentage of Final Listings*



Source: CERCLIS and SNAP databases, March 25, 2002



# Mega Sites by Activity Type



"Multiple" refers to sites where more than one activity caused the site to be placed on the NPL.  
"Other" includes military/ordnance production, dry cleaners, transportation, retail and storage sites.

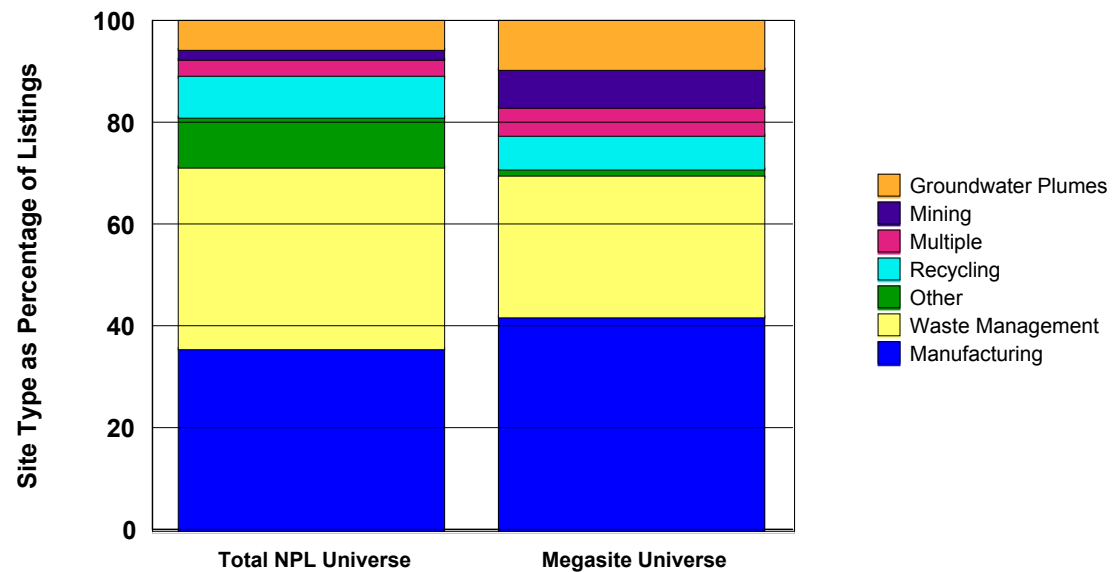


June 11, 2002



# NPL Site Activity Type

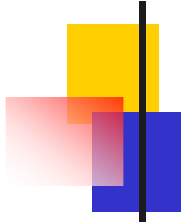
*How Do Megsites Compare to Other NPL Sites?*



Source: CERCLIS and SNAP databases, May 1, 2002.

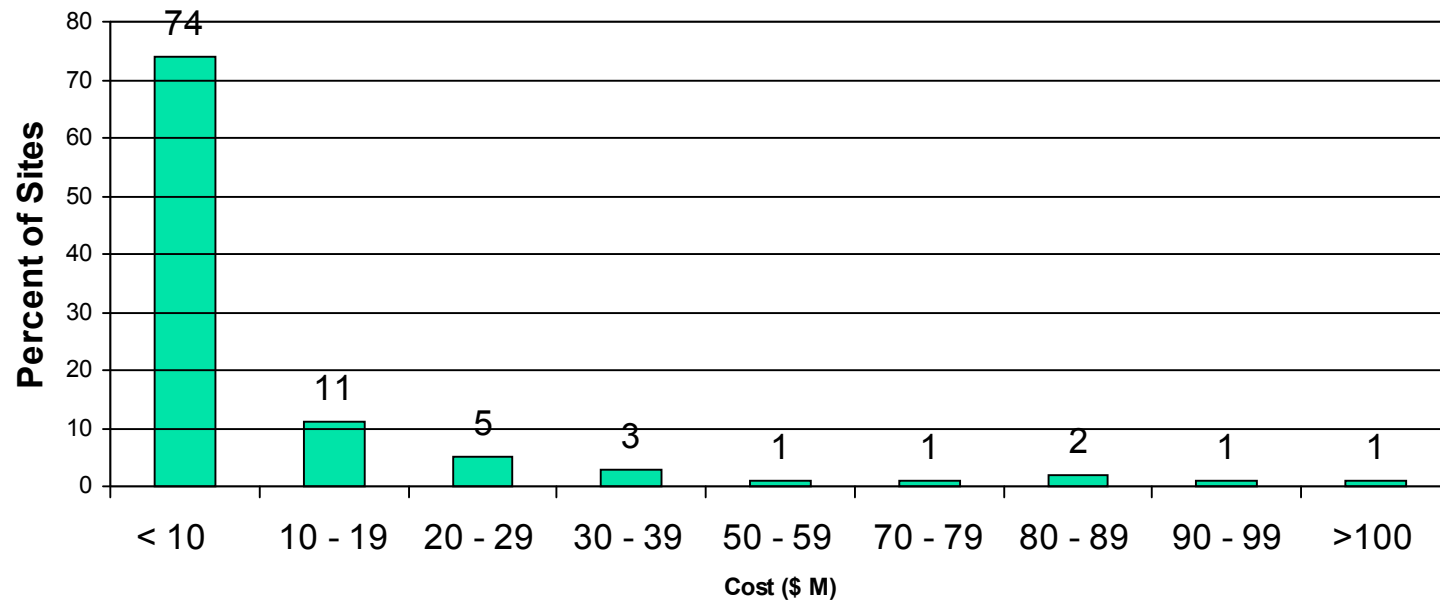
"Multiple" refers to sites where more than one activity caused the site to be placed on the NPL.

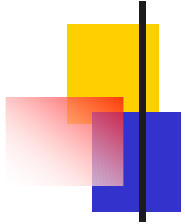
"Other" includes military/ordnance production, dry cleaners, transportation, retail and storage sites.



# Cost of Sediment Cleanups

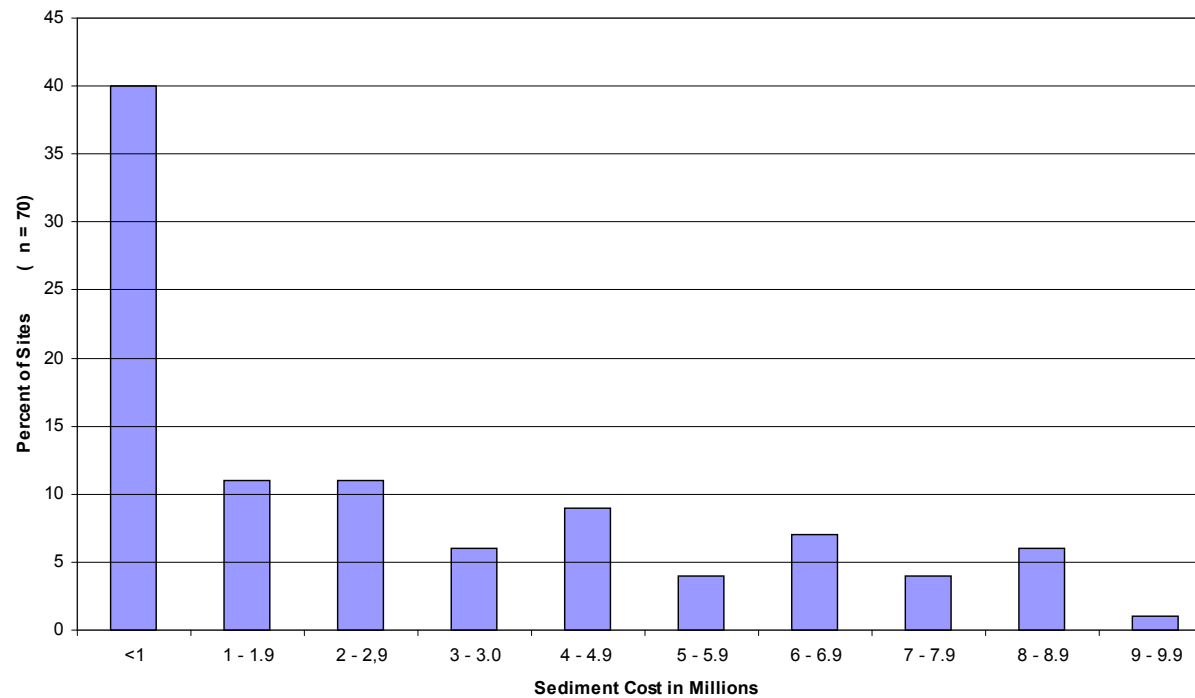
For sediment costs only, data from 108 sites with decisions as of 2001





# Cost of Sediment Cleanups

Cost of sediment cleanup for sites with sediment costs < \$10 M (draft data for 70 sites as of 2001)



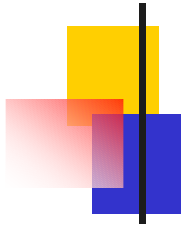




# What Makes Mega Sites Different?

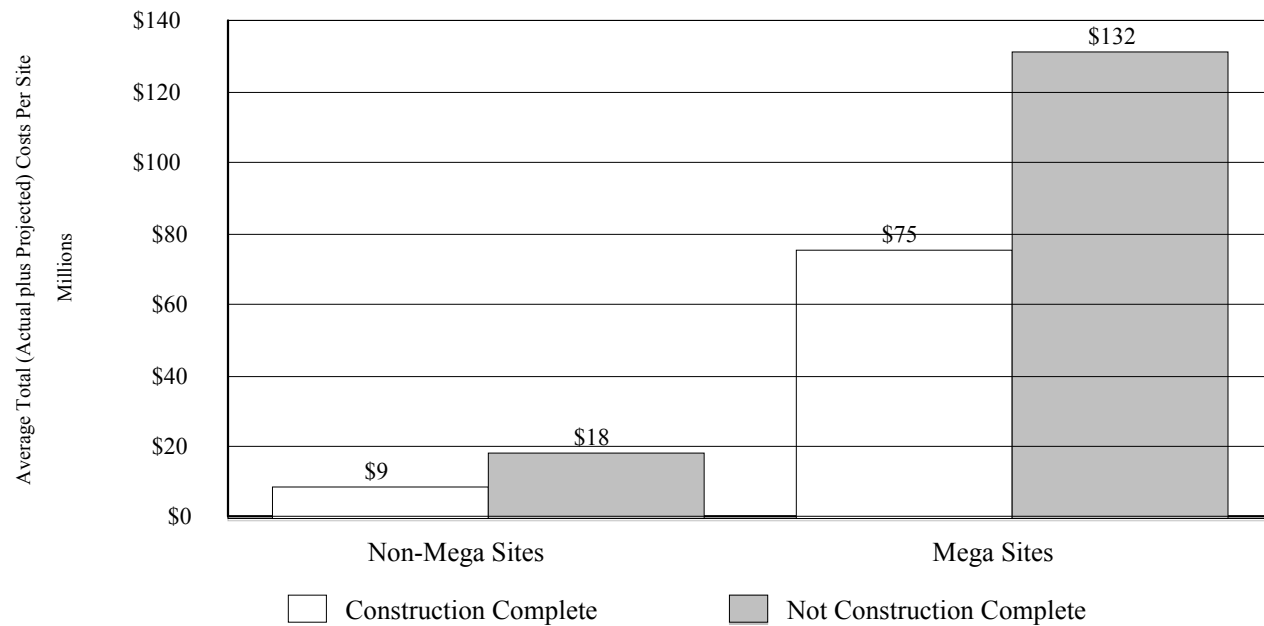
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- Cost?
- Site complexity?
- Cleanup methods?
- Geographic area?



# Mega Sites Cost More

## Preliminary analysis of average cleanup cost



Average Actual and Projected Costs for Non-Federal Facility Fund Lead NPL Sites



# Site Complexity Varies

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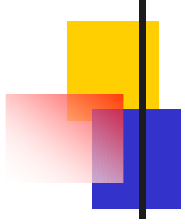
- History, knowledge, number and intensity of the polluting sources);
- Nature and extent of contamination;
- Proximity of populations / species;
- Current use of resources
- Complexity of geology / hydrology



# Cleanup Methods Depend...

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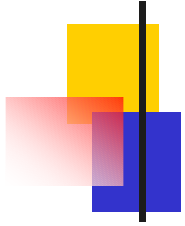
- On site vs. Off site
- Treatment vs. containment
- Capacity of waste management facilities
- Community concerns (local vs. regional)



# Large Geographic Areas

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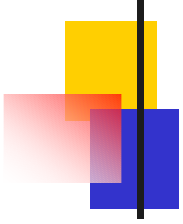
- Extensive study areas
- Multiple communities
- Miles of streams or rivers
- Broadly dispersed contaminants (via activities, air, water, re-use of tailings)
- Knowledge, management of multiple sources



# Cost Control Initiatives

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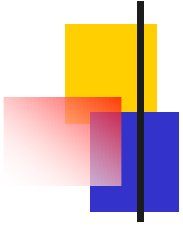
- Major enforcement reforms
- Streamlining reforms
- Cost control reforms:
  - National Remedy Review Board
  - Remedy Updates



# The Mega Site Issue

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- Eighty percent of resources for ongoing construction projects to go to less than 20% of the projects with funding need.



# Questions for the Committee

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- Are there characteristics of mega sites that indicate the need for a unique or supplemental decision process for NPL listing? Are there alternatives to placing mega sites on the NPL?
- Are there better ways of managing mega site cleanup costs under Superfund?
- What other options for cleanup of mega sites exist in Federal, State or other programs?
- Are there more meaningful / appropriate descriptors (other than “cost”) that can help us better analyze cleanup program or resource management options?